Recurrance of Chikungunya in Kerala

1238. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recurrance of diseases like Chikungunya in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken measures to combat the situation;

(c) whether the existing facilities for diagnosing the diseases are inadequate in the State;

(d) if so, whether Government considers the upgradation of institutions like Virology Institute at Alapuzha for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. The State of Kerala has been reporting cases of Chikungunya fever since July, 2006 onwards. During 2006, total 70731 and in 2007 till 31st October, 24030 suspected cases of Chikungunya fever have been reported.

(b) and (c) 1. Government of India has prepared a Long Term Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Chikungunya in the country and sent to the States including Kerala for implementation.

2. For proactive surveillance Medical College, Kottayam; Medical College, Thiruvanthapuram and Medical College, Kozikode with laboratory support have been identified as Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals in the State.

3. For advance diagnostic facility, Quality Assurance and capacity building, above Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals were linked with Kerala State Institute of Virology and Infectious Diseases, Alapuzha which has been identified as Apex Referral Laboratory.

4. Microbiologists and laboratory technicians of these institutes have been trained on_ sero-diagnosis.

5. The supply of IgM ELISA test kits for diagnosis of Chikungunya to the identified institutes has been made through NationaUnstitute of Virology, Pune.

6. To meet the operational cost, contingency grant of Rs. 50,000/- to each Sentinel Surveillance Hospital and Rs. 1.00 lakh to the Apex Referral laboratory has been released.

7. In addition to routine supply of logistics, Rs. 2.21 crore was released as emergency package during 2006-07 for purchase of Fogging Machines, Pyrethrum Extract (2%), Temephos, Insecticide treated bed nets and for conducting IEC activities. Similarly, during 2007-08, Rs. 4.04 crore has been released for purchase of Pyrethrum Extract (2%), Temephos and social mobilization of community to undertake source reduction in domestic and peri-domestic areas.

8. Multidisciplinary Central teams visited the State to provide technical guidance to the state.

(d) and (e) For infrastructure development, Rs. 25.00 lakhs as one time grant and Rs. 1.00 lakh as contingency grant has been released to Kerala State Institute of Virology and Infectious Diseases, Alapuzha.

Microbiologists and laboratory technicians of the Institute have been trained on sero-diagnosis at National Institute of mental health and Neuro Science, Bangalore.

The supply of IgM ELISA test kits for diagnosis of Chikungunya to the institute has been made through National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Establishment of a field station of National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune at Allapuzha is also proposed.

Treatment of infertility with Letrozole

1239. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women in the country being treated for infertility with "Letrozole' could be running the risk of damaging themselves and their babies;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has any mechanism in place to contain the use of the medicines meant for women and children which ignore the need for safety, side effects, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to discourage the use of the above medicine; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Safety and efficacy of letrozole for its use in induction of ovulation in anovulatory infertility, has been evaluated and based on favourable safety and efficacy data, the drug has been approved for induction of ovulation in anovulatory infertility as per Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

Business of spurious medicines in the country

†1240. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the claim made by the Indian Medical Association that the business of spurious and adulterated medicines has reached upto Rs. 7000 crores and its network has spread upto nine States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is going to take any concrete steps to check this highly serious crime;

(d) whether any steps have been taken as controlling measures in association with the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.